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# TECHNICAL NOTES

## LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · · FOREST SERVICE

No. 573

### Production of Miscellaneous Timber Products--Lake States, 1958

Every two years the Station surveys the production of miscellaneous forest products to determine the quantities cut in each of the three Lake States. The findings for the year 1958 are reported here.

Cooperage Logs.--The cut of cooperage logs in the Lake States amounted to about 4½ million board feet in 1958, most of the volume going into the production of whiskey barrels. Cooperage logs are one of the few forest commodities that showed an increase in production. Wisconsin continued to be the largest producer in the Lake States (see table on reverse side).

Piling.--More than 600,000 lineal feet of piling was produced in the Lake States in 1958. Minnesota producers accounted for nearly all of the softwood piling, and Michigan cutters for most of the hardwood piling. The 1958 cut, especially that of softwoods, was substantially more than the normal output. An expanded highway program, coupled with the quickening of commercial and residential construction in some areas, increased the demand for piling. Unusually long hardwood piling was much in demand but hard to get.

Poles.--More than 230,000 poles were cut from Lake States timber in 1958. This was an increase of approximately 36 percent over the 1954 harvest. Northern white-cedar and red pine poles showed the greatest increases. An active market for poles to be used in constructing pole-type farm and commercial buildings contributed to the upturn in production in 1958.

Chemical and Charcoal Wood.--The local cut of chemical and charcoal wood amounted to approximately 169,000 cords in 1958. This production was approximately 28 percent below that of 1956--the year of the last previous survey. Nearly three-fourths of the 1958 cut was made up of low-grade logs and bolts taken from the woods, while the remainder came from sawmill slabs, veneer cores, and other mill residues. Compared to 1956, wood procurement at large plants dropped off considerably in 1958, whereas it increased at most of the small plants.

Excelsior Bolts.--The survey shows that 53,000 cords of excelsior bolts were cut in 1958, 39 percent less than in 1956 and a new low for this product. This slump reversed a strong upward trend in excelsior production which has been evident since 1950. Wisconsin plants produce most of the baled excelsior while Michigan plants specialize in excelsior padding.

Heading Stock.--Mill closures and reduced levels of operation at many container veneer plants in 1958 resulted in a weakening of the market for heading stock. In 1958 the cut of heading stock amounted to only 12,000 cords in the Lake States compared to 16,000 cords in 1956--a 25 percent decrease. Cardboard and plastic containers have cut deeply into markets for wood veneer containers.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Production of miscellaneous timber products, Lake States, 1958

Species	:	:	:	:
	:	Minnesota	Wisconsin	Michigan
	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	Total

COOPERAGE LOGS (MBF Int'l 1 1/4" Rule)

Basswood	213	-	-	213
Oak	352	3,781	-	4,133
All species	565	3,781	-	4,346

PILING (M lineal feet)

Softwood	219	81	8	308
Hardwood	-	54	253	307
All species	219	135	261	615

POLES (M pieces)

Pine	93	14	-	107
Cedar	83	25	17	125
All species	176	39	17	232

CHEMICAL AND CHARCOAL WOOD (M std. cords)

Hardwoods	6	17	98	121
Mill residue	*	22	26	39
All species	6	39	124	169

EXCELSIOR BOLTS (M std. cords)

Aspen	*	33	20	53
Basswood	-	*	-	*
All species	*	33	20	53

HEADING STOCK (M std. cords)

Aspen	1	5	*	6
Hardwoods	1	5	*	6
All species	2	10	*	12

\* Less than 500 cords.